



Kentucky Environmental Education Council (KEEC)  
Interagency Subcommittee on Environmental Education Meeting Minutes  
September 11, 2019

**Meeting Location:** Mayo-Underwood Building, 500 Mero St., 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Frankfort, KY

**Meeting Time:** 1:30 p.m. Eastern

**Committee Members in Attendance:** Billy Bennett, Wesley Bullock, Roberta Burnes, Rae McEntyre, Dale Booth, Steve Kull, T. Logsdon

**Other Staff in Attendance:** Ashley Mike

B. Bennett called the meeting to order at 1:41 p.m. Introductions were made around the table.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

At 1:44 p.m., R. Burnes moved to approve the minutes of the ISEE Meeting on September 11, 2019. R. McEntyre seconded. All were in favor. None were opposed. The motion passed.

KEEC New Council Members

B. Bennett reported that former Gov. Bevin appointed 8 new members to the Kentucky Environmental Education Council on his last day in office. Some of the new members have reported that they were unaware of their appointment. Other have RSVP'ed to the next council meeting. The membership of the council will remain in flux until all members have been reached and decided to serve or resign.

EE Master Plan and Survey

Because of the changes to the council, the 2020 Master Plan for Environmental Education in Kentucky will remain on hold until the council can meet. There is a final draft version of the plan, but the council must approve it before it is published.

Reports from Committee Members

- R. McEntyre reported that KDE is looking for a new commissioner. Also, the Office of Teaching and Learning is back. They are advertising professional development modules. The Science standards are up for revision beginning this summer, according to the current plan. She has been working with the Social Studies team to work together under the umbrella of EE. According to the legislative agenda of the Board of Education, they will recommend that EPSB remain with KDE.
- D. Booth reported that all basins are covered with a coordinator for the first time in a decade, and all are enrolled in the Professional Environmental Educator Certification course. They are exploring ways to get Project WET more widely distributed in the state. They are looking into collaboration with teacher and administrator pre-service education. B. Bennett said they did it at ECU when he was there, but it is difficult. R. Burnes said she had reached out in the past, and was told that coursework is too tight, but they could help get the word out about workshops to

pre-service educators. B. Bennett said that everyone at ECU did it during their coursework when he was there, but it depends on who is setting the curriculum requirements. He said he would be happy to work with D. Booth to make connections to work on this. R. McEntyre said that KSTA has a board committee working to identify pre-service educators in higher ed to get a list to promote science education. She will see where they are in the process of compiling the list. She suggested ensuring that it supports whatever they are doing in their pre-service education so that it is not something extra. Brittany Wray of KAEE is working on true correlation of standards (especially science) to the Project WET curriculum. R. McEntyre suggested that, as a selling point, she should work on how Project WET supports the dimensions of the standards, which are unlikely to go away. Other than that, D. Booth said that they are working with 4-H on youth stream teams, in conjunction with watershed watch, culminating with a service project. There is new Director at DOW, Paul Miller.

- S. Kull reported that Division of Forestry has not gone through much change. They are educating the new administration about the importance of their work. The biggest opportunity upcoming is Arbor Day in early April, where they will get outreach to ¼ million members of the public. They educate county judge-executives to do proclamations for local jurisdictions.
- R. Burnes has been working on trying to learn ARC mapping, which is now used for internal reporting in DAQ. She is working on a parallel report that is ADA accessible since ESRI is not. The new website for the cabinet is ADA compliant, but not all documents on the website are compliant. She is also working on trying to come up with better trainings for adult groups on things like open burning, which is a lot of technical communication. And she is still getting a lot of requests for career fairs, so she is working on being interactive and meaningful in her exhibits which have little time.
- T. Logsdon said that Fayette County Public Schools will be nominated by KEEC for the US Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools District Sustainability Award. Bluegrass Youth Sustainability Council has seven committees working on various issues. They held a food and environment summit, are working with the Town Branch park, and working on energy issues and community outreach. They are also working on solid waste issues, which is difficult within the school system. UFI is working on pocket nurseries in the schools. Separately, she is working on getting a Green Schools Coalition mobilized in Kentucky. She is still doing Go Green to Earn Green sustainability work and STEM in the classroom. Farm to School has taken on a new paradigm this year, which has been successful. The need for the Outdoor Classroom Coalition continues to exceed the capacity of the organizations working on them. She is working on trying to get capacity for an outdoor classroom coordinator.
- R. Burnes mentioned that a lot of schools, especially rural, have their own small package wastewater plants, which often have problems. Part of the issue is that they really need to collect more data. Could KGHS maybe reach out to the high schools to get help with collecting more data? B. Bennett said that we are hoping to hire a part-time KGHS coordinator who could work on projects like that.

#### Environmental Education Leadership Corps

A. Mike reported that the 2019-20 EELCorps program has nearly filled all available member service years with host sites with active members, and those who have committed to have a member. We are still trying to fill a position at Mahr Park in Madisonville, UK recycling, JM Feltner 4-H Camp, and Legacy Grove Park in Winchester. Cumberland Falls State Resort Park will be needing a member for the summer. We will begin recruiting for host sites and members for 2020-21 in the next few weeks. She asked ISEE members to think of EELCorps members when seeking collaborators for projects like Arbor Day, stream cleanups, or other service days.

#### Professional Environmental Educator Certification Course

W. Bullock reported that the first 2 of the 4 PEEC workshop are complete, with 22 participants. The move away from state parks as workshop locations has been successful in saving money for the AmeriCorps budget and maintaining the high level of quality of instruction. There is money in the KEEC budget for scholarships that should allow all participants whose employers do not pay for their registration to have most of the registration fee covered.

#### Governor's Conference

S. Kull reported that the conference was fairly uneventful. We have yet to see what the priority of the new administration will be for the conference.

#### North American Association for Environmental Education 2019 Conference

R. Burnes wrote an article for Land, Air and Water that captures what happened at the conference. The 2020 Conference will be in Tucson. The 2020 KAEE Conference will be at Jenny Wiley State Park September 16-17, 2020. The SEEA Conference will be in Columbia, SC, the following weekend.

#### 2020 Schedule of ISEE Meetings

The remaining meetings of ISEE in 2020 will be held:

- March 11
- June 10
- September 9
- December 16

Adjourned at 3:00 PM.